



**USAID | MACEDONIA**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 8, 2007

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **U.S. assistance helps to recycle plastic waste in the Municipality of Gostivar**

On 8 November 2007, the USAID Plastic Recycling Project will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Municipality of Gostivar for the implementation of its plastic waste collection campaign. The American people, through USAID, have invested \$30,000 in this municipality to implement the collection system and to conduct a public awareness campaign. USAID is part of the U.S. Mission in Macedonia.

"Macedonia is a beautiful country that deserves to be protected. This project is a perfect example of how the Government, the private sector and the local community can come together in preserving the environment for future generations," said the Director of USAID Economic Growth Office Marcia Wong. "Recycling plastic waste is turning into a legitimate business that is creating a lot of jobs in Macedonia. I'm very grateful for USAID's contribution to that," said the Mayor of Gostivar Nevzat Bejta.

Gostivar is the first of four pilot municipalities to launch the plastic collection program. As part of the program, the municipality will work with the private sector and NGOs to construct and equip "ecological islands" where residents can safely dispose of plastic waste. USAID will also support the implementation of a comprehensive public awareness campaign. In Gostivar, the campaign will begin in primary and secondary schools where children will be educated on the importance of plastic recycling.

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.